Colin thou kenſt] knoweſt. Seemeth hereby that Colin perteyneth to ſome Southern noble man, and perhaps in Surrye or Kent, the rather bicauſe he ſo often nameth the Kentiſh dovvnes, and before, As lythe as laſſe of Kent.

The VVidovves] He calleth Roſalind the VVidowes daughter of the glenne, that is, of a country Hamlet or borough, which I thinke is rather ſayde to coloure and conceale the perſon, then ſimply ſpoken. For it is vvell knowen, euen in ſpighte of Colin and Hobbinoll, that ſhee is a Gentle vvoman of no meane houſe, nor endewed vvith anye vulgare and common gifts both of nature and manners: but ſuche indeede, as neede nether Colin be aſhamed to haue her made knowne by his verſes, nor Hobbinol be greued, that ſo ſhe ſhould be commended to immortalitie for her rare and ſingular Vertues: Specially deſeruing it no leſſe, then eyther Myrto the moſt excellēt Poete Theocritus his dearling, or Laurcta the diuine Petrarches Goddeſſe, or Himera the vvorthye Poete Steſichorus hys Idole: Vpon vvhom he is ſayd ſo much to haue doted, that in regard of her excellencie, he ſcorned & wrote againſt the beauty of Helena. For which his preſumptuous and vnheedie hardineſſe, he is ſayde by vengeaunce of the Gods, thereat being offended, to haue loſt both his eyes.

Frenne] a ſtraunger. The word I thinke vvas firſt poetically put, and afterwarde vſed in commen cuſtome of ſpeach for forenne.

Dight] adorned. Laye] a ſonge. as Roundelayes and Virelayes

In all this ſonge is not to be reſpected, vvhat the worthineſſe of her Maieſtie deſerueth, nor vvhat to the highnes of a Prince is agreeable, but vvhat is moſte comely for the meaneſſe of a ſhepheards vvitte, or to conceiue, or to vtter. And therefore he calleth her Elyſa, as through rudeneſſe tripping in her name: & a ſhepheards daughter, it being very vnfit, that a ſhepheards boy brought vp in the ſhepefold, ſhould know, or euer ſeme to haue heard of a Queenes roialty.

Ye daintie] is, as it vvere an Exordium ad preparandos animos.

Virgins] the nine Muſes, daughters of Apollo & Memorie, vvhoſe abode the Poets faine to be on Parnaſſus, a hill in Grece, for that in that countrye ſpecially floriſhed the honor of all excellent ſtudies.

Helicon] is both the name of a fountaine at the foote of Parnaſſus, and alſo of a mounteine in Bœotia, out of which floweth the famous Spring Caſtalius, dedicate alſo to the Muſes: of vvhich ſpring it is ſayd, that vvhen Pegaſus the winged horſe of Perſeus (whereby is meant fame and flying renowme) ſtrooke the grovvnde with his hooſe, ſodenly thereout ſprange a vvel of moſte cleare and pleaſaunte water, vvhich fro thēce forth was conſecrate to the Muſes & Ladies of learning.

Your ſiluer ſong] ſeemeth to imitate the lyke in Heſiodus γυρέον μέλος.

Syrinx] is the name of a Nymphe of Arcadie, whom when Pan being in loue purſued, ſhe flying frō him, of the Gods was turned into a reede. So that Pan catching at the Reedes in ſtede of the Damoſell, and puffing hard (for he vvas almoſt out of wind) with hys breath made the Reedes to pype: vvhich he ſeeing, tooke of them, and in remembraunce of his loſt loue, made him a pype thereof. But here by Pan and Syrinx is not to bee thoughte, that the ſhepheарde ſimplye meante thoſe Poetical Gods: but rather ſuppoſing (as ſeemeth) her graces progenie to be diuine and immortall (ſo as the Paynims were wont to iudge of all Kinges and

and Princes, according to Homeres ſaying.

Θυμὸς δὲ μέγας ἐϛὶ διοτρεφέος βα
τιμὴ δ' ἐκ Διός ἐϛι, φιλεῖ δέ ἑ μητ

could deuiſe no parents in his iudgement ſo heards God, and his beſt beloued Syrinx. So famous and victorious King, her highneſſe Henry the eyght. And by that name, oftyme kings and mighty Potentates: And in ſome rye Pan and god of Shepheardes.

Cremoſin coronet] he deuiſeth her crowne to be of inſtede of perles and precious ſtones, where adorned and emboſt.

Embelliſh] beautifye and ſet out.

Phebe] the Moone, whom the Poets faine to be ſiſte

Medled] mingled.

Yſere] together. By the mingling of the Redde roſe ting of the two principall houſes of Lancaſt diſcord and deadly debate, this realm many cleane decayed. Til the famous Henry the ſe king to vvife the moſt vertuous Princeſſe E vvard of the houſe of Yorke, begat the moſ in vvhom vvas the firſte vnion of the VV hy

Calliope] one of the nine Muſes: to vvhome they a uention, & the firſte glorye of the Heroical Goddeſſe of Rhetorick: but by Virgile it thyng. For there in hys Epigrams, that art mnia, faying: Signat cuncta manu, loquitur which ſeemeth ſpecially to be meant of A tes of Rhetorick: beſyde that her name, vvh great remembraunce, conteineth another p vvhich call her Polymnia or Polyhymnia o

Bay branches] be the ſigne of honor & victory, & th in theyr triumphes, & eke of famous Poets

Arbor vittoriosa triomp

Honor d' Imperadori &

The Graces] be three ſiſters, the daughters of Iupite Euphroſyne, & Homer onely addeth a four res, that is thanks. vvhō the Poetes feyned comelines, vvhich therefore (as ſayth The that men firſt ought to be gracious & boun benefits at other mens hands curteouſly, a ly: vvhich are three ſundry Actions in libera be painted naked, (as they were indeede o one hauing her backe toward vs, and her